NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

November 7, 1997

Holiday Fest

Save the Date -- December 17, 1997

This year's Holiday Fest (staff party) will be held on Wednesday, December 17, 1997 in Stanley Field Hall beginning at 5:00 p.m.. You will be receiving your invitation soon. This year the volunteers will be joining in our celebration. When you receive your invitation, you will notice that we ask you to R.S.V.P. to **Joanna Surveyor** in the Human Resources Office by December 5, 1997. We highly encourage you to make your family members and friends a part of this wonderful event. Guest admission is $5 per person -- please pay **Joanna** (x356) in the Human Resources Office. Independent contractors and others affiliated with Museum may come to the Fest by paying the $5 guest admission. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the *fest*ivities this year!

DEADLINE FOR 1997 EXPENDITURES

In order to ensure that 1997 purchase order expenses hit our 1997 budget, please have all purchase orders in Tom Geary's office no later than Friday, November 28. Purchase orders with November dates on them will be charged to your 1997 budget (assuming of course that your budget is not overspent). Purchase orders received in December and after will hit the year in which title to the goods or service is received. If you have a question please call **Tom Geary** (x278).

LIVING TOGETHER OPENING

All are invited to the opening of **Living Together.** See the schedule of events published in this issue as an insert.

NEW STAFF and VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Thursday, November 20, 1997
8:45 a.m. to Noon
Montgomery Ward Hall

The Human Resources Office cordially invites you to a special behind-the-scenes look at the Museum designed for new staff and volunteers. This welcoming event is specifically targeted toward those individuals who started their employment or volunteer service anytime from mid-April 1997 through November 1997. This will be your opportunity to meet other new team members and to become acquainted with the academic areas of our institution from an insiders point of view. This experience is bound to be an enjoyable one. Speak with your supervisor about your interest in attending and obtain permission for time away from your work.

Call the Human Resources office (x356), by Friday, November 14 to reserve your space.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

GEOLOGY GRANT FUNDED

MacArthur Curator **John Flynn** (Geology) and Research Scientist **Michael Nedbal** (Geology) were recently awarded $185,000 from the National Science Foundation for their research project, "Phylogeny and Rates of Change in the Carnivora (Mammalia)." The primary objectives of this research project are two-fold: 1) to better elucidate phylogenetic relationships of an important group of mammals, the Carnivora, and 2) to examine and test models and rates of taxic and molecular evolution. To achieve these objectives they specifically plan to: i) analyze a large suite of new or high-quality cranial and skeletal material of fossil carnivorans, ii) amplify and sequence parts of the mitochondrial and nuclear genome for a broad range of Carnivora and related groups totalling about 125,000 base pairs, to provide an independent source of data for resolving relationships of living Carnivora, and iii) map each gene sequence onto the best supported phylogeny(ies) generated in this study, analyze patterns and estimate rates of change in these molecules, and test various hypotheses of molecular change. University of Chicago student Johnny Hsu is a recent addition to the "carnivoran team" proposing to attack the enigmatic relationship between the skunks and more typical mustelids for his undergraduate honors project.

MUSEUM CAMPUS CAREER QUEST A RESOUNDING SUCCESS!

On Saturday, November 1, the Education Departments from The Field, The Adler Planetarium and The Shedd Aquarium presented ***Career Quest: Designing Your Future,*** our first tri-institutional program to be developed since the formation of the Museum Campus. ***Career Quest*** was designed as a pilot program to introduce young adults to science-related career choices that can be found at the three institutions.

The program was filled to capacity with fifty teenagers from Chicago-area public and private high schools. Participants visited each of the three institutions to meet with museum staff members and to go behind-the-scenes for first-hand information. In addition to introducing specific career choices, presenters were asked to emphasize the importance of pursuing diverse opportunities, education and multiple interests using their own experiences as examples. The Field focused on the interconnections of art, science and education -- using the **Africa** exhibit as a springboard to illustrate how science is communicated to our visitors through education and exhibit design. After lunch at Picnic in the Field, The Adler Planetarium introduced participants to the "Sky Show" production, astronomy and computer technology. At The Shedd Aquarium, participants interacted with marine biologists, aquatic scientists and educators. In addition, participants were provided with resource materials about Chicago Wilderness organizations, volunteer and intern opportunities at all three institutions and web sites that can provide them with additional information as they continue to make choices about schools and careers.

At the end of the program, participants evaluated the day based on their initial expectations for the program. Based on these evaluations, the teens considered the day to be a great success and a valuable learning experience. In the words of one participant, "I got the information that I wanted and was able to talk (to staff) on an individual basis. This was a terrific experience and a lot of fun".

A sincere thank you to all Field Museum staff who were involved in making this day a valuable and successful learning opportunity. Special thanks to: **Beth Adams, Dan Brinkmeier, Tom Gnoske, Gina Polito, Security, Visitor Services, LizEvents, Housekeeping** and **Audio Visual!**

Stephen Bell, Education (x362)

Correction: Maureen Ransom is the name, ***not*** Maureen Herencia as erroneously stated in last week's *Natural News.* My apologies to Maureen for this slip-up. -- Carolyn Klyce

The *Natural News* is edited by **Carolyn Klyce** in the President's Office. The deadline for all submissions -- in WordPerfect on floppy disk or via email to klyce@fmppr.fmnh.org -- is Tuesday at noon. Printed on recycled paper.

Saturday, November 8, 1997

LIVING TOGETHER EXHIBIT OPENING: ACTIVITIES & PERFORMANCES

Living Together Exhibit: Common Concerns Different Responses, 9:00-5:00, First Floor, Stanley Field Hall Come and explore Field Museum's newest permanent exhibit *Living Together* which teaches visitors about the benefits of cultural diversity. Opening Day festivities include:

Opening Ceremony: Linking the Chain, 10:00 a.m., First Floor, Stanley Field Hall Different community organizations will create a peace chain by adding colorful links, each one representing a special significance tot hose who made it. Meanwhile **The Happiness Club**, a group of 35 children from diverse backgrounds, will sing and dance to their lyrics of unity.

Community Drum Circle: Coming Together to Express the Universal Language of Rhythm, 11:00, First Floor, Stanley Field Hall Drum circle leaders will initiate a drumming group that will bring people together in the same rhythm. Percussion instruments will be distributed to children will they last.

Community Voices: Coming Together to Know Each Other Various organizations will be highlighted that have been leaders in bringing different groups of people together. Booths will be set up throughout the Museum.

Coming Together For Fun and Games, 12:00-4:00 Learn to play games from around the world. Games will be scattered throughout the Museum so visitors can explore the fun aspect of Living Together.

Pies Galore! Coming Together to Break Bread and More, 12:00-4:00, First Floor, Stanley Field Hall Meat pies, veggie pies, and sweet pies of many forms, shapes, and flavors are eaten throughout the world. Join us to taste a sampling of pies from around the world.

Coming Together to Listen to Our Youth, 1:30, Ground Floor, Lecture Hall 2 A group of teens will explore cultural diversity through theater. The original play - written, produced, and directed by these Chicago youths - will focus on bridging the gap in cultural understanding. Seating is limited, tickets are available at the Information Booth, first floor, Stanley Field Hall.

Coming Together to Celebrate - musical performance, 2:30, First Floor, Stanley Field Hall *Funkadesi* will deliver a musical performance representing five different continents: Africa, Asia, Europe, South America, and North America.

ATTENTION EMPLOYEES

NEW PARKING PLAN!

Effective October 1, 1997 - April 1, 1998.

- Employees with either monthly or daily employee parking coupons will be able to park in the East Museum parking lot, the Soldier Field east lot and the Adler Planetarium parking lot, on a space available basis.
- Employees will be able to park in the East Museum lot Monday - Friday beginning at 6:30 a.m. Employees who leave the East Museum lot during the day may not reenter. Employees must then go to the Soldier Field, or Adler Planetariun parking lots.
- Employees may park in the Planetarium and Soldier Field east parking lots on weekdays beginning at 7:00 a.m.
- On weekends, all Park District parking lots will be available for employee parking at 8:00 a.m.
- Parking in the East Museum lot on weekends will be on a first come first parked basis for employees and for cash parking.
- On days when the East Museum parking lot has been rented for an evening event, employees must remove their vehicles no later than 5:30 p.m.
- The event day parking memo of August 26, 1997 is in effect through December 7, 1997.

Sunday, November 9, 1997

LIVING TOGETHER EXHIBIT OPENING: ACTIVITIES & PERFORMANCES

Living Together Exhibit: Common Concerns, Different Responses, 9:00-5:00, First Floor, Stanley Field Hall Come and explore Field Museum's newest permanent exhibit *Living Together* which teaches visitors about the benefits of cultural diversity. Exhibit opening festivities include:

Opening Ceremony: Linking the Chain, 10:45 a.m., First Floor, Stanley Field Hall Different community organizations will create a peace chain by adding colorful links, each one representing a special significance to those who made it. Meanwhile, **The Happiness Club**, a group of 35 children from diverse backgrounds, will sing and dance to their own lyrics of unity.

Community Voices: Coming Together to Know Each Other Various organizations will be highlighted that have been leaders in bringing different groups of people together. Booths will be set up throughout the Museum.

Coming Together For Fun and Games, 12:00-4:00 Learn to play games from around the world. Games will be scattered throughout the Museum so visitors can explore the fun aspect of Living Together.

Coming Together to Celebrate - musical performance, First Floor, Stanley Field Hall Noon - *Maxwell Street Klezmer Band* will present "Wedding Music Around the World", including traditional music played at Russian, African-American, and Eastern European weddings. 1:45 - *The Primal Connection* will create cross-cultural connections as they blend African, Latin, Middle Eastern and urban rhythms into a complex weave of sound.

Pies Galore! Coming Together to Break Bread and More, 12:00-4:00, First Floor, Stanley Field Hall Meat pies, veggie pies, and sweet pies of many forms, shapes, and flavors are eaten throughout the world. Join us to taste a sampling of pies from around the world.

Coming Together to Listen to Our Youth, 12:30 and 3:00, Ground Floor, Lecture Hall 2 A group of teens will explore cultural diversity through theater. The original play - written, produced, and directed by these Chicago youths - will focus on bridging the gap in cultural understanding. Seating is limited, tickets are available at the Information Booth, first floor, Stanley Field Hall.

Community Drum Circle: Coming Together to Express the Universal Language of Rhythm, 3:30, First Floor, Stanley Field Hall Drum circle leaders will initiate a community drumming group that will bring people together in the same rhythm. Percussion instruments will be distributed to children while they last.

Parking Plan Reminder

The new Parking Plan announced on October 1 (included as an insert in this issue), allows employees to park in the east Museum lot, Monday thru Friday beginning at 6:30 a.m. While the plan recapped employee issues, there is still some confusion about event, visitor, and vendor parking, as well as reservation procedures for west lot spaces. Following is a summary of the portions of the 1997 Parking Plan addressing those issues:

West Lot:

- To the extent possible, free parking is available in the west lot during the day, Monday thru Friday, for volunteers (including members of the Board of Trustees, Women's Board, Founder's Council, research associates, students and unpaid interns). Once west lot space is exhausted, parking is available for a fee in the Museum east lot and the Soldier Field lot.
- All staff may park in the west lot from 4:30 p.m. through 8:30 a.m., Monday through Friday, and all day on weekends and holidays. At all times, staff must display their monthly pass or surrender the three-dollar daily ticket upon entry. Staff who park during the day in one of the Park District lots (the Soldier Field lot or the Museum east lot), may move their car into the west lot after 4:30 p.m.
- Space will be provided for delivery and pickup, including for use by Harris Extension.
- Two spaces may be reserved for the use of Development, Special Events, Public Relations and the President's Office.
- Limited space will be available for contractors and other service vehicles needing access to their materials and equipment while working in the Museum. Other contractors must park in the Park District lots.
- Whenever possible, the west lot will accommodate Education weekend performers.
- Visitors of Museum staff should be requested to park in the Soldier Field lot.
- Disabled staff may park in the west lot when spaces are available. Since disabled parking is at a premium (eight spaces), staff members must show the documentation used to obtain a disabled permit to the Human Resources department and have their parking pass stamped.

Event Parking:

- Whenever possible, we will accommodate small evening events such as education programs, etc., in our west lot. All requests for event parking must first be coordinated with the Security Services department, before placing any parking information on a Green Sheet.

- The west lot cannot accommodate requests for large numbers of parking spaces, due to the limited number of spaces available. Departments or event organizers requiring large numbers of spaces must arrange for parking in the Park District lots, with as much advance notice as possible. Arrangements for Park District lot parking, can be made through the Director of Public Services' office (x564 or x238). *If these lots are used, parking fees will be paid by the department, event organizers, or participants.*

- When the east Museum lot has been rented for an evening event, employees must remove their vehicles no later than 5:30 p.m., although there may be times when employees will be asked to move their vehicles earlier. Employees will be given advance notice as to when it will be necessary to move their vehicles early.

- All staff program and event parking questions should be directed to **Ron Cundiff,** Security Services Manager and Parking Coordinator (x856 or x322).

New Door hours	
The Museum doors open at the following times:	
Weekdays	▸ South Door: 6:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. ▸ North Door: 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. ▸ West Door: 5:30 a.m. - 12:00 midnight
Weekends	▸ South Door: 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. ▸ North Door: 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. ▸ West Door: 5:30 a.m. - 12:00 midnight
	If you need to arrive at the Museum before 5:30 a.m., make arrangements with the Security Department.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Field Museum, in conjunction with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), is sponsoring the "Epic of Evolution Conference" to take place November 12-14, 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. This conference has been developed as part of the AAAS's "Program of Dialogue between Science and Religion" to demonstrate the compatibility of the findings of the evolutionary sciences with religious/philosophical reflections. We need Museum volunteers, available staff, and/or interested family members to help with conference registration at the following times:

Wednesday, November 12	8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	three people
	12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m.	four people
Thursday, November 13	8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	four people
	12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	two people

If you would like to help with this conference, please call **Mary Futrell** (x673). Anyone who volunteers their time will have the conference registration fee waived.

"LEADERS TO RULERS: THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLITICAL CENTRALIZATION"

This past October 18, the Anthropology Department and Academic Affairs hosted the conference "Leaders to Rulers: The Development of Political Centralization." Over ninety people registered for this conference which focused on the development of centralized political systems in the past. This cultural process has become an increasingly important focus of study among anthropologists, particularly archaeologists.

The conference considered how and why leaders develop out of egalitarian social foundations, and how this leadership became an institutionalized part of a culture. Prior to about 10,000 years ago, there are no indications of clear social, political, or economic hierarchies; but rather a global-wide pattern of relative social equality and decentralized decision-making. This pattern of social equality began to change at different moments and at different rates in various parts of the world in the course of the last 10,000 years. In every culture area, the origins and development of politically centralized social systems and the emergence of leaders and rulers followed a unique evolutionary trajectory depending on local history and environment. At the same time, there are broad patterns of similarity in this process that cut across cultures and across time. This conference considered both patterns of similarity and difference to explore the issue of the development of leadership and institutionalization of political centralization.

Ten archaeologists, all leading scholars in the field of political theory, participated in the conference, including Brian Billman, Carole Crumley, Adjunct Curator **Winifred Creamer** (Anthropology), Timothy Earle, Gary Feinman, Antonio Gilman, Kristian Kristiansen, Patricia McAnany, Gil Stein, and Anne Underhill. These scholars met for

two days in closed sessions, with MacArthur Curator **Jonathan Haas** (Anthropology) acting as discussion leader, to consider the issues related to the development of political centralization. These scholars then presented papers at the public conference on October 18. The conference participants were very successful in extracting many of the cultural processes that play an important role in the development of political centralization. The book that will follow will be a significant contribution to research concerning the development of political centralization.

SPIDERS

The spiders from Chicago prairies and woodlands are receiving a lot of attention in the Insect Division. Thomas Fenzl from Germany is working with Adjunct Curator **Petra Sierwald** (Zoology) on genus and species level identification of the spiders collected in 1996 and 1997 for The Field Museum's Illinois Rapid Assessment Program (I-RAP) and Swallow Cliff Projects. Thomas will complete a spider internship with Petra in early December. Frank H. Pascoe, Professor at the College of St. Francis in Joliet, and specialist for the large family of jumping spiders, comes to the Insect Division regularly now that the field season is over to identify the jumping spiders collected from our Swallow Cliff and I-RAP sites. He and his student are part of the spider project for I-RAP, assessing the jumping spider diversity in Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.

NOON BALLOON

The Noon Balloon presentation for Tuesday, November 4, 1997 was delivered by **Christine Dranzoa,** Senior Lecturer, Institute of Environmental and Natural Resources, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda. Christine discussed several aspects of conservation programs in Uganda. Prior to the early 1990's the primary focus of conservation efforts was primates and large mammals. Christine's research shifted the focus to Ugandan birds. More than 50% of Ugandan avian diversity is found only in primary tropical rain forests. She compared bird diversity in two areas of the Kibale Forest National Park; one site was undisturbed, primary forest, the other had been selectively logged in 1968. She documented a significantly lower species diversity in the logged area relative to the undisturbed site. She also documented major differences in the species composition between the two areas. She attributed the absence of some taxa from the logged site to a decline of appropriate breeding/nesting sites as well as the impact of an opened tree canopy. Christine also discussed surveys of the Karamoja National Park designed to identify concentrations of endemics within the park. All major vegetation zones within the park were sampled for plants, butterflies, reptiles, birds and mammals. Comparisons of the spatial distribution of the species of each of these five groups of organisms showed a great deal of discordance among the patterns. In closing, Christine underscored the need for conservation-directed surveys of biodiversity to draw upon multiple groups of organisms.